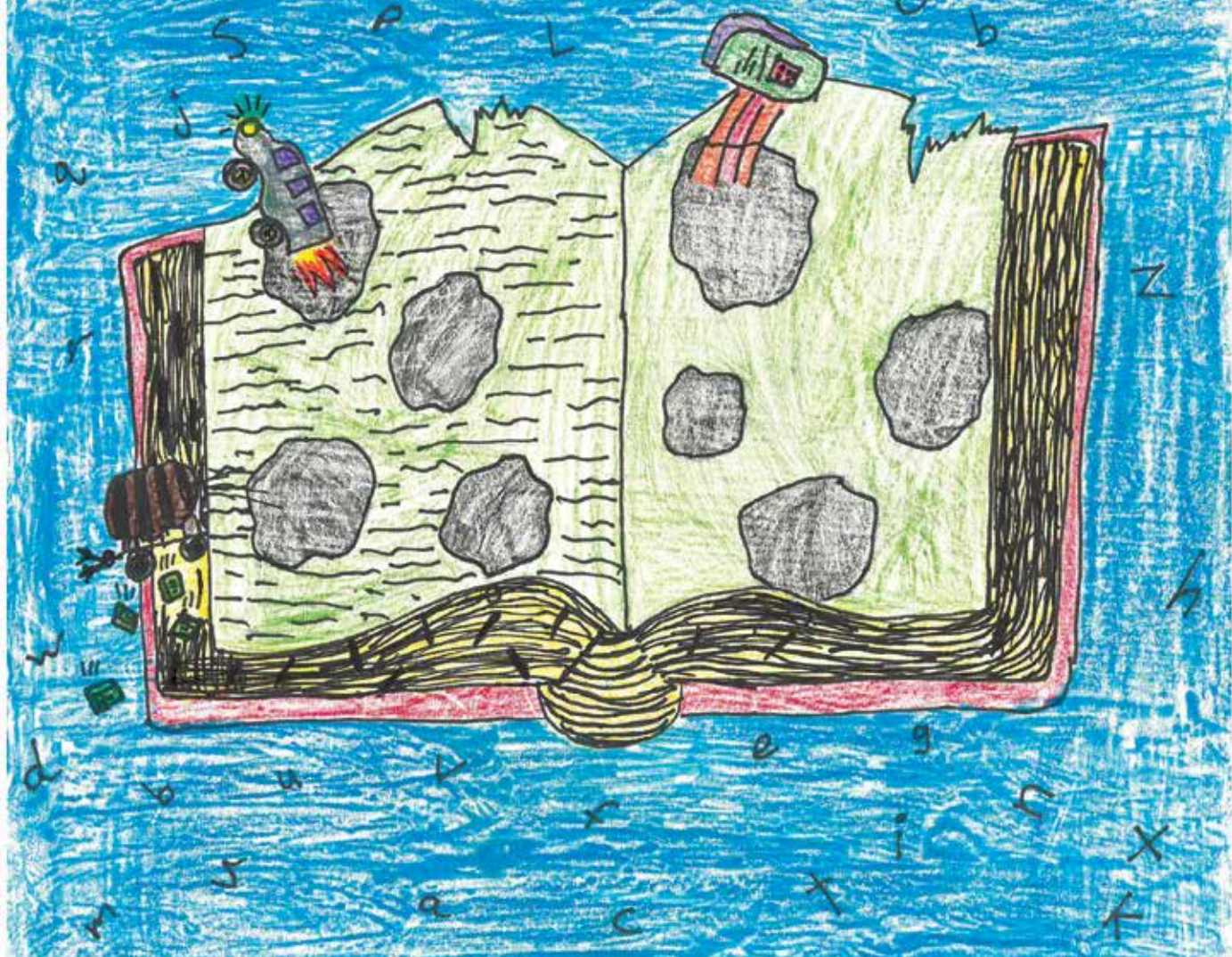


Stories About Accessing Books Around the Globe!



Written and Illustrated by

The Centaurs

3rd & 4th Grade Class, 2020 -2021

Preface

About our School

Santa Fe School for the Arts & Sciences is an independent expeditionary learning school for preschool through 8th grade. Our mission is to achieve academic excellence in an environment of respect, inclusion and diversity, utilizing expeditionary learning, global perspectives and a multicultural art and science enriched curriculum.

EL Education is an approach to learning that combines rigorous academic content and real world projects, called “learning expeditions.” Learning expeditions are in-depth, interdisciplinary learning units, which require students to engage in sophisticated research and collaborate with communities in authentic ways. Students document their learning with high quality products which can, in turn, be of service to their local and global communities.

How a learning expedition inspired “The Purple Library” project

The Learning Journey

For their fall expedition, the Centaur class (3rd/4th grade) took on the guiding question, “What is the power of reading?” To develop ideas and answer this question, the students researched how people around the world go to great lengths to access the power of reading.

Waiting for the Biblioburro, by Monica Brown, introduced the children to the story of a real-life librarian who travels far and wide to bring literacy and culture to rural communities in Columbia. Other mentor texts included *Rain School* by James Rumford, *The Librarian of Basra* by Jeanette Winter, and *Nasreen’s Secret School* by Jeanette Winter. Through reading *My Librarian is a Camel* by Margriet Ruurs, the students learned more about different organizations around the world that bring the power of reading to children.

The following collection of short stories, written by 3rd and 4th grade students, is a culmination of the hard work and collaboration of the Centaur class. Much of this work was done from home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students found unique ways to collaborate, learn from one another, and also access reading and resources in new ways. These stories are infused with their experiences of having limited access to their own classroom materials and their “normal” way of learning. They wanted to let people know how fortunate we are to have schools and libraries in our communities, and about the amazing people bringing reading to children all over the world. In this book, you will see how brave librarians cross deserts, jungles, and mountains to bring the power of reading to everybody!

The Purple Library

After learning how people go to great lengths to bring books to communities all over the world, the Centaurs were inspired to discover how they could make a difference in their own community. After reading the book *Little Libraries, Big Heros* by Paul Miranda, the students decided to create the Purple Library, shown on the back cover. The Purple Library can be found on the street in front of our school. It provides free books to all who walk by on their way to and from the many schools in our neighborhood.

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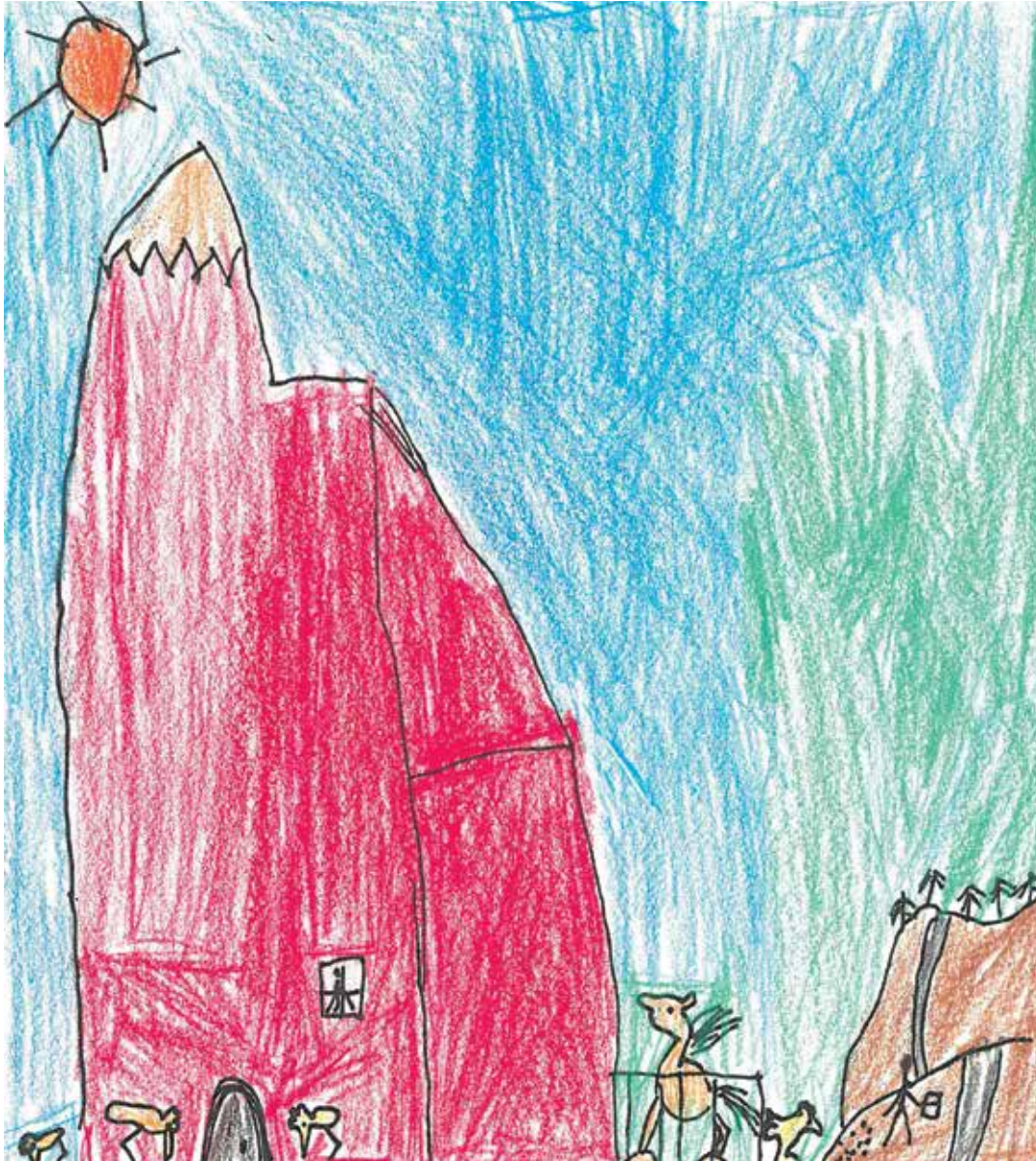
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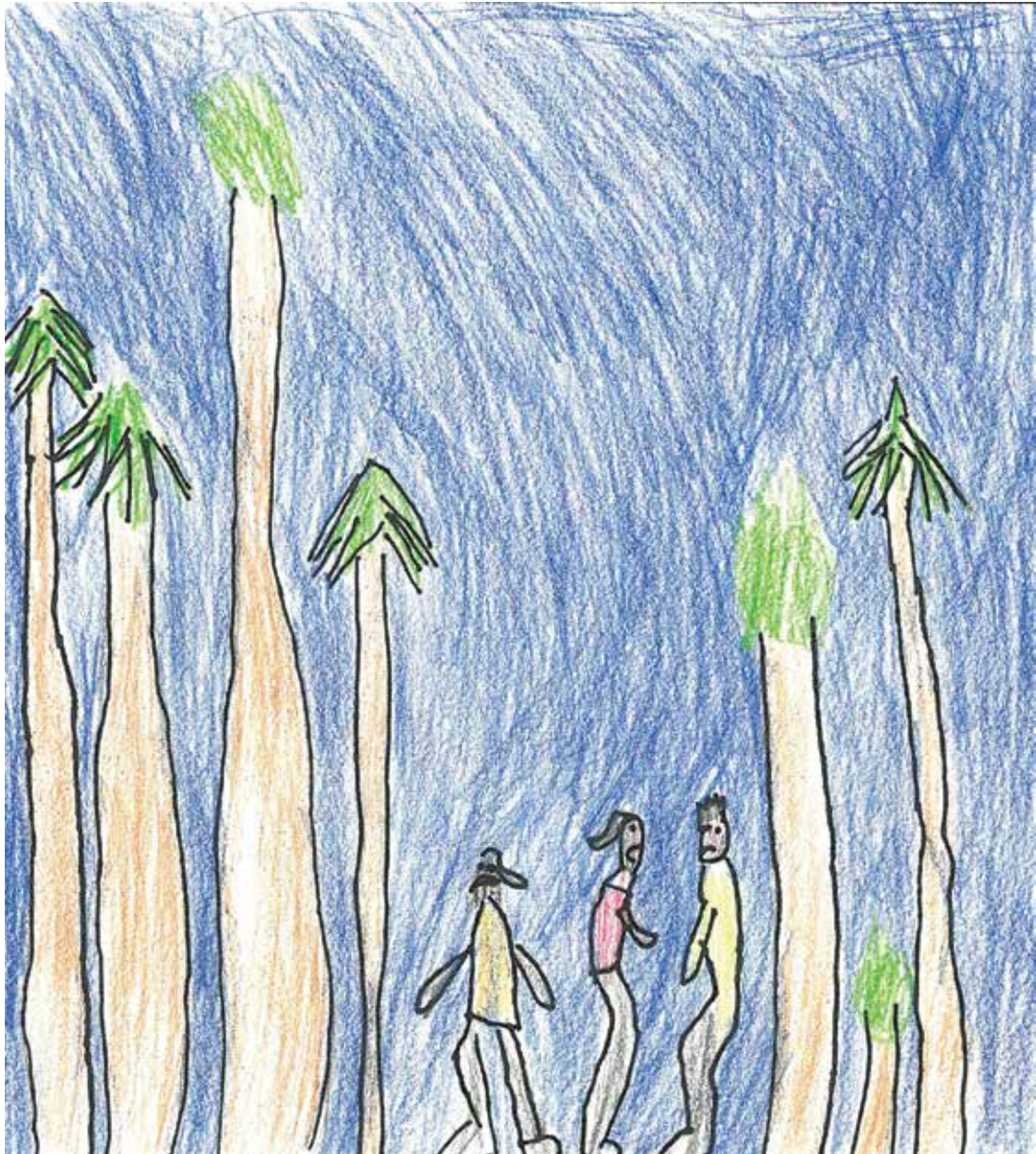
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The Book Cart

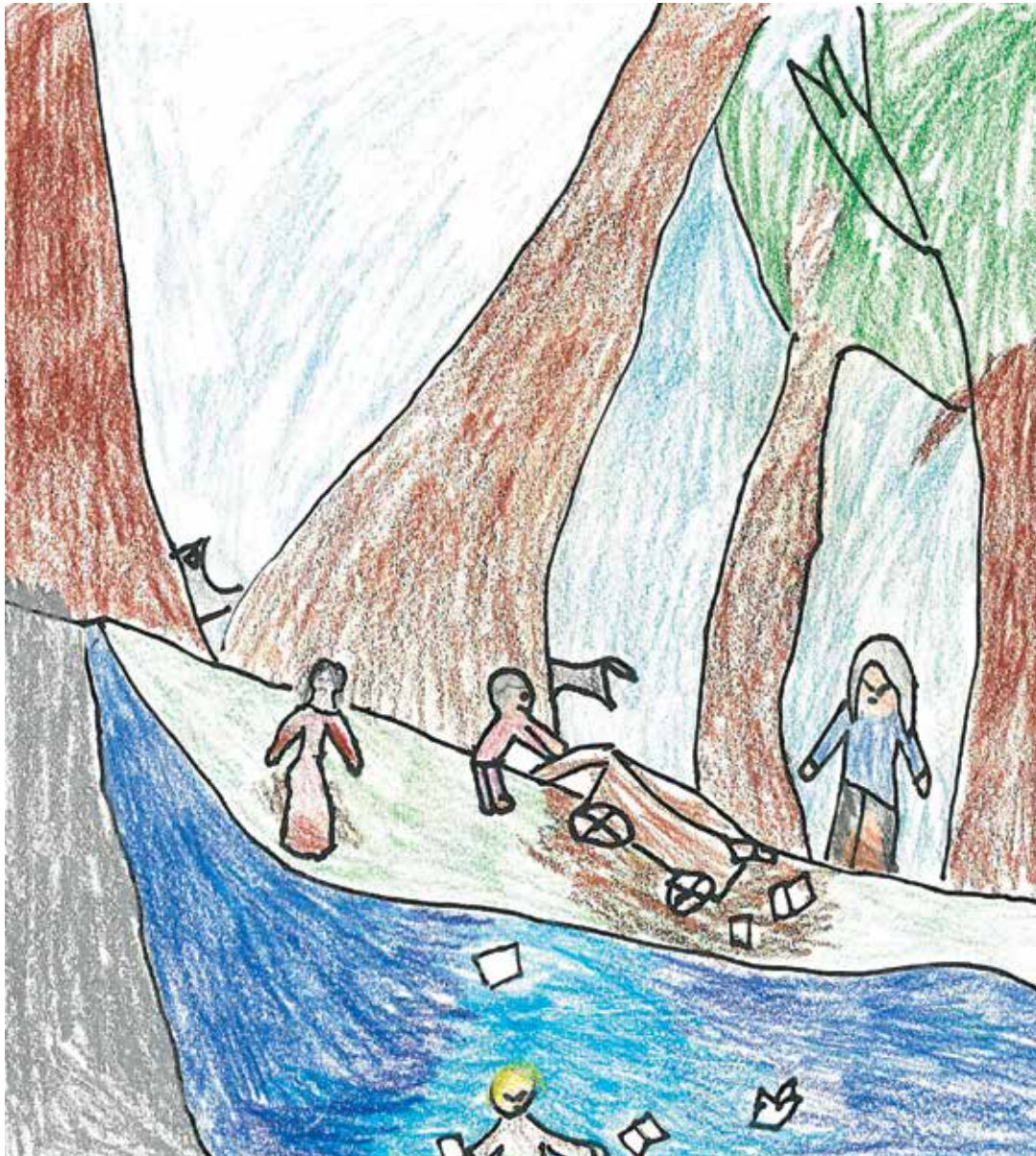
by Donovan Boston & Emilia Martini



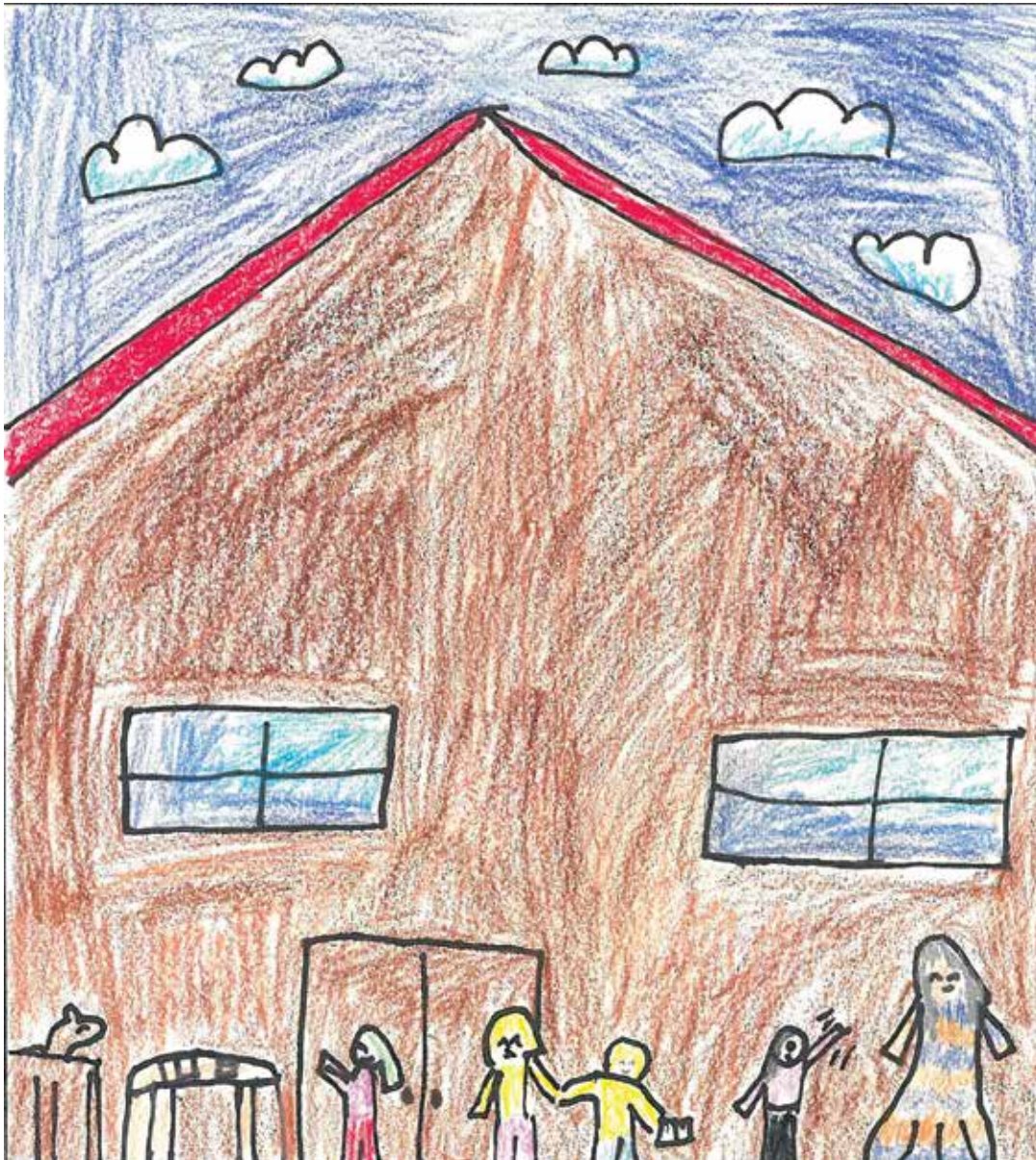
In a big barn on a bed there's a girl named Maria sleeping and dreaming about books. When she woke up the next morning she ran down to town to find her mom at the market. She asks her mom, "when will the donkey cart be here?" Her mom replied, "it's probably late." Then, Maria searched for her friends Diego and Luis so they could help her find the librarian.



When Maria found her friends Diego and Luis, they went to the forest to find the librarian. "It's getting late, we should do this tomorrow," said Diego. "No!" Said Luis and Maria, "we can't give up. She might be hurt." They searched for the Librarian but they didn't find her.



The next day Maria, Diego and Luis decided to look near the river for the librarian. They found the librarian with the cart turned over, in a mud pit. The books were all around. The donkeys were lost. The librarian had scratches all over her. She was laying down looking at the books. "How will we read them?", said Luis. The children helped the librarian fix the cart and bring it to Maria's big barn.



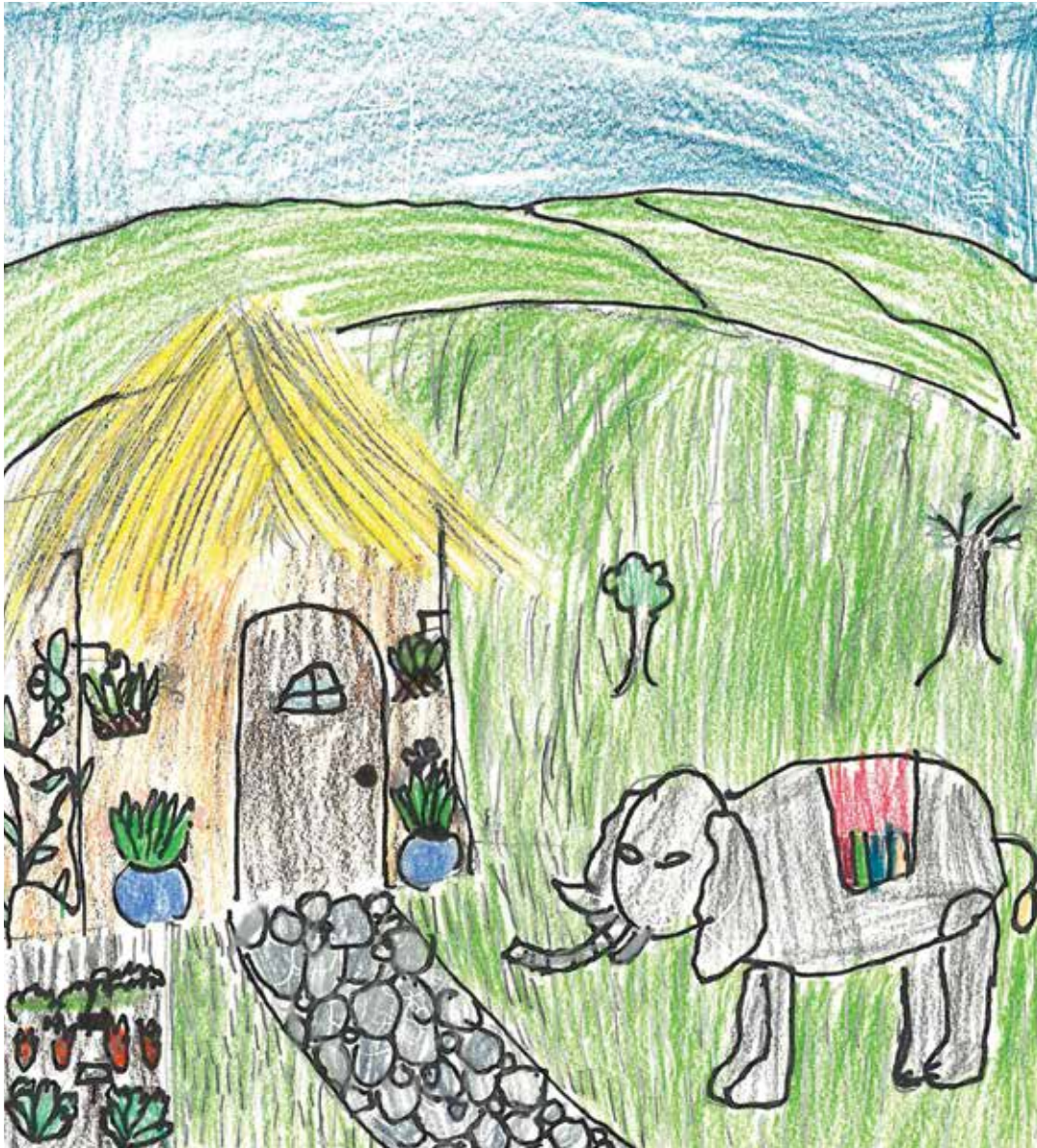
When they were at the barn, Maria called other children from the town to help repair the books. After, the librarian read the children a fairy tale about dragons and unicorns. Before she leaves she gives each child a book to borrow. She thanks them for fixing the cart and repairing the books.

The Elephant Library

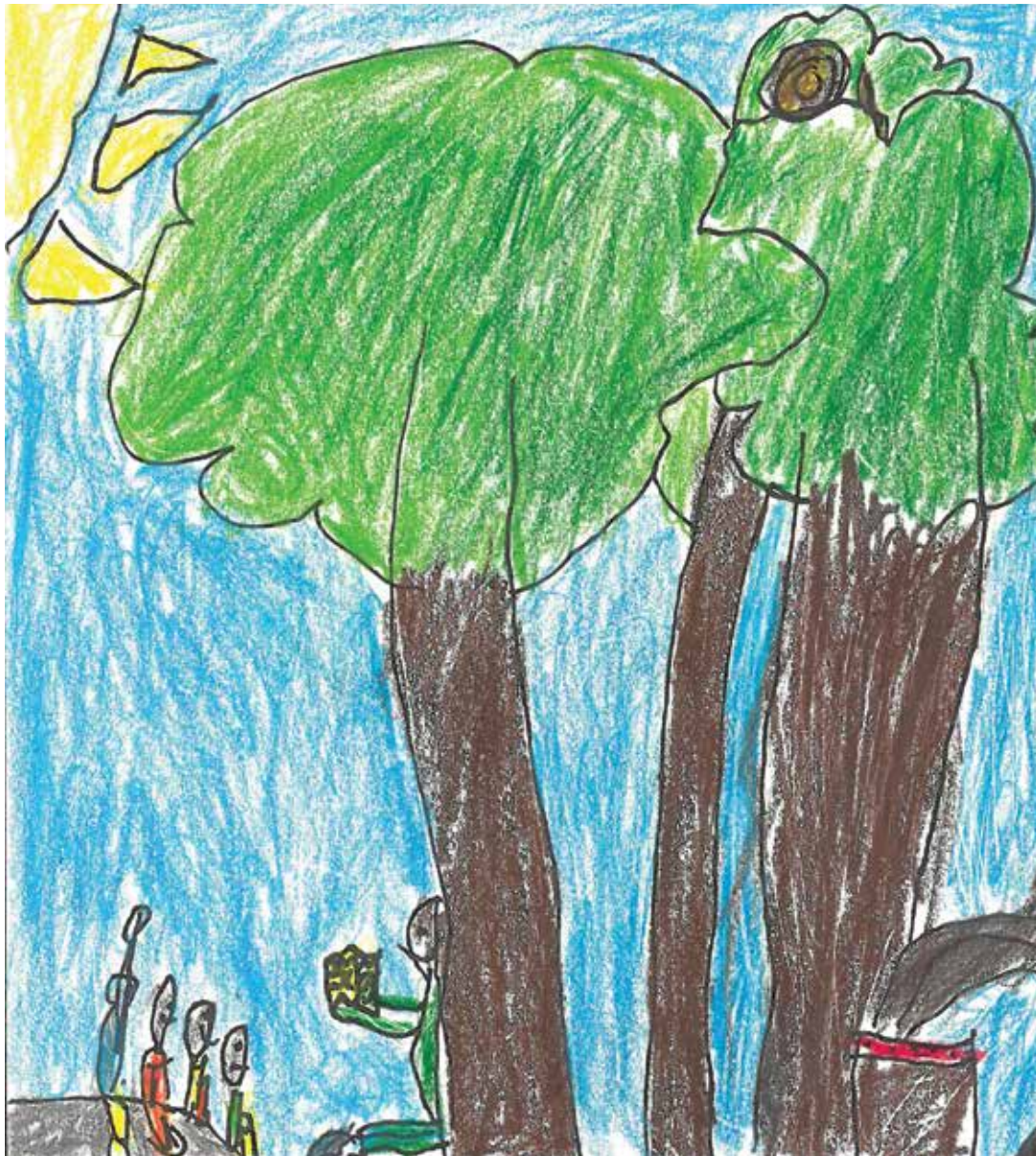
by Sohaila Adeniji & Damien Brinegar



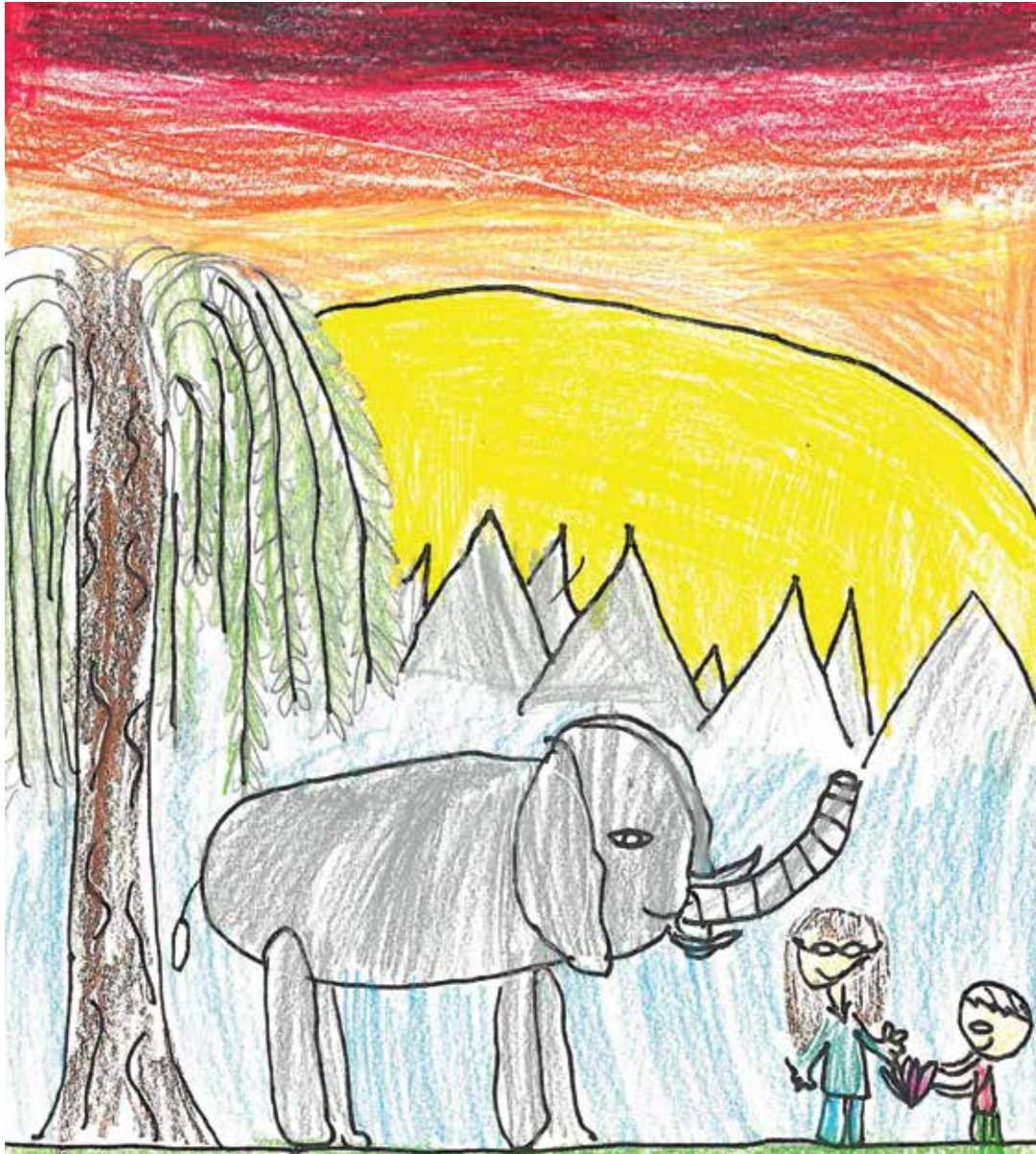
Chantara the librarian was forced to take books to Omokoi, a city in Thailand. She was lost in the rainforest! She persevered and soon found herself in a small village. In that village lives a boy named Bo-Nam who dreams of having books. When Chantara approaches the village, all the kids run out of their homes to see the elephant.



Bo-Nam, a village child asks, "why do you have all those books on your elephant's back?" Chantara tells them, "I am a librarian and I am here to bring you books!" All the children are very excited because they don't have a school or books. Chantara reads the children a story and teaches the younger kids the sounds of different letters. All the village kids get to pick out one book to take home. The librarian tells the children, "I will come back in two weeks with more books." Every day Bo-Nam reads books to his little sister Prita and helps her practice learning the letters and sounds. They wait for Chantara and her elephant to return.



After two weeks, Chantara returns with friends from The Books-By-Elephant delivery program with more elephants and even more books! The librarians read with all the children in the village and teach them more. The librarians say, “we need to go bring books to other kids all over Thailand.” Before they leave, the children give the librarians lotus flowers to show gratitude for bringing them the power of reading.



Deep in the jungle in a village lives a boy named Bo-Nam. He dreams of when the librarians will return with more books and their elephants, filling the village with joy and happiness.

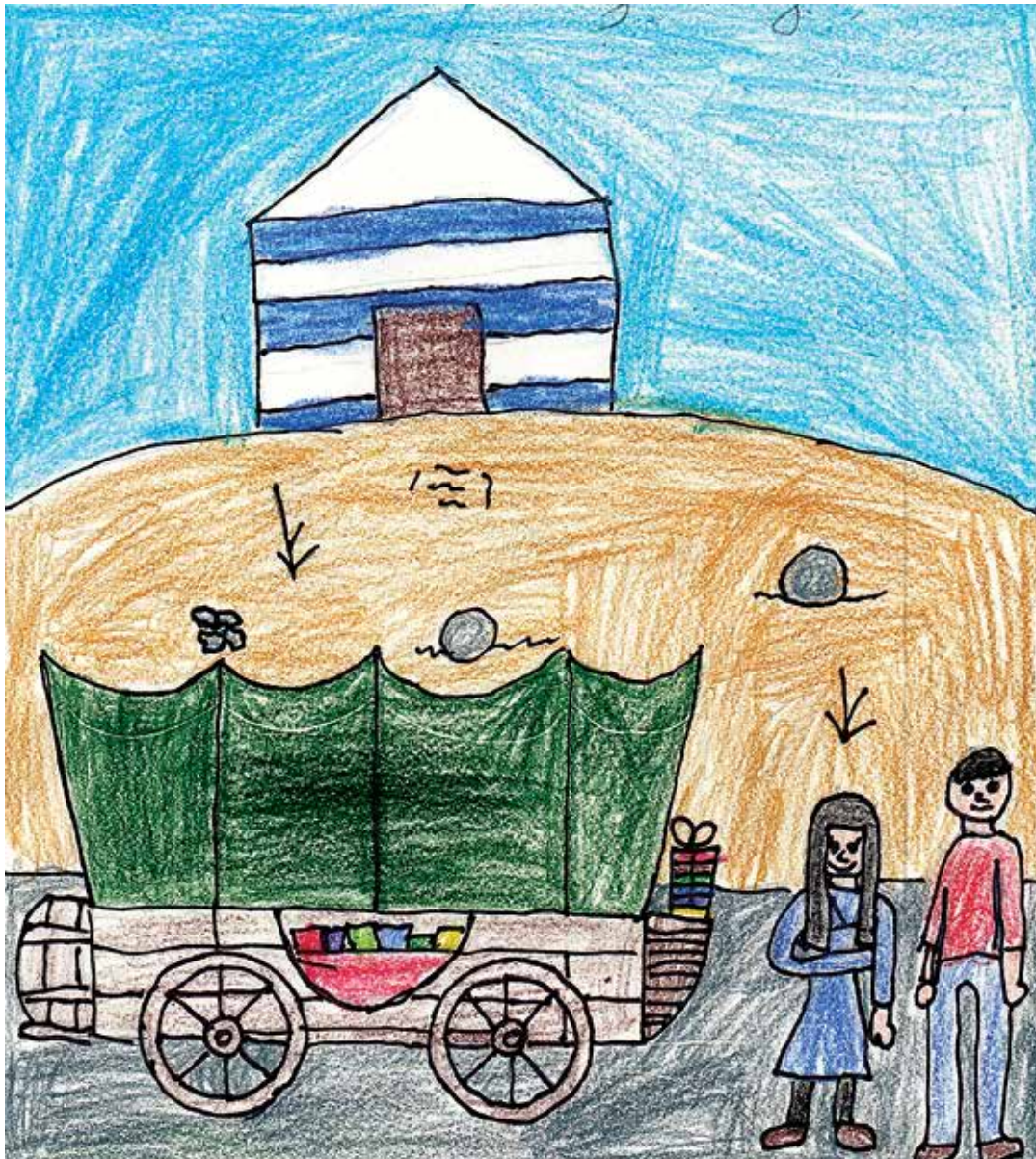
Gerel and the Library Wagon

by Max Oliver, Sarah Hoffman & Gus Bundy

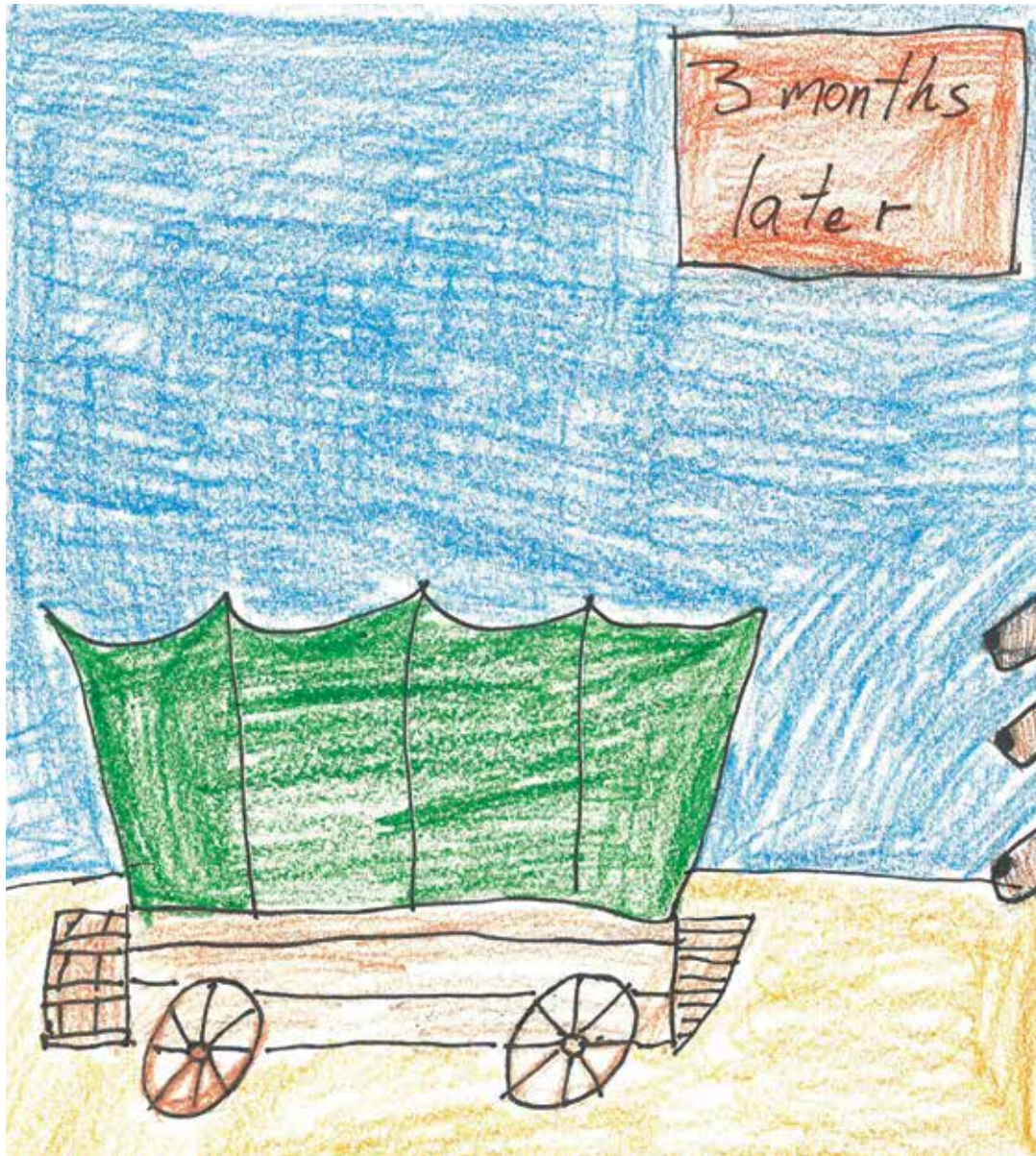


One bitter morning in the Gobi Desert, Mongolia, a girl named Gerel is reading a book to her brother Chono and her sister Saran for the hundredth time. They are longing for a new book. Little did they know that their dreams would come true soon.

The next morning Gerel wakes up and runs out the door. She sees a cluster of children surrounding what looks like an old wagon. Then she spots something in the wagon that makes her happy. She's happy because she sees a book!



Gerel runs into the crowd and picks up a book from the wagon titled, *A Wolf in the Moonlight*. Then a tall man walks toward her and asks, "Would you like to borrow this book?" "Yes, please," she responds. "My name is librarian Dashdondog, what's yours?" "Gerel," she says. "Gerel, welcome to the library wagon!" Says the kind librarian. "Let me go wake up my brother and sister!" Gerel exclaimed. Gerel runs back to the yurt, wakes up Chono and Saran, then tells them about the library wagon. A few moments later, they are all picking books from the wagon. When it was time for the library wagon to go, the children thanked the librarian for the fun new books.



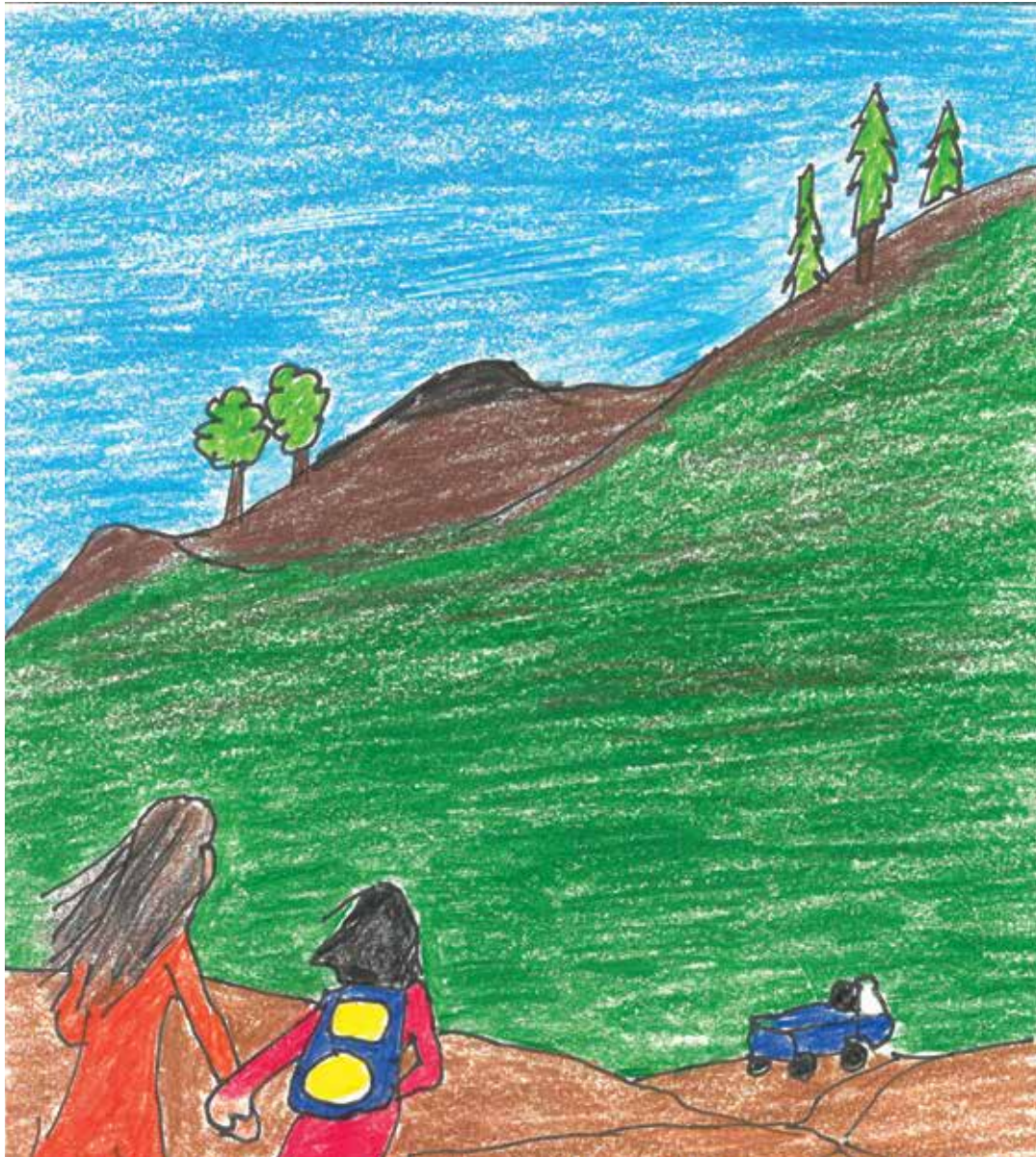
Three months later Gerel, Chono and Saran wait for the wagon to return. While they wait they are happy with their new books. One day, when they were riding horses with their friend, they all stopped in their tracks. The wagon had returned!



From then on, the wagon would come every three months. Mr. Dashdondog would bring new books with him, even share some food and stories. Every night, Gerel dreams about new books that await.

Leila and the Blue Truck

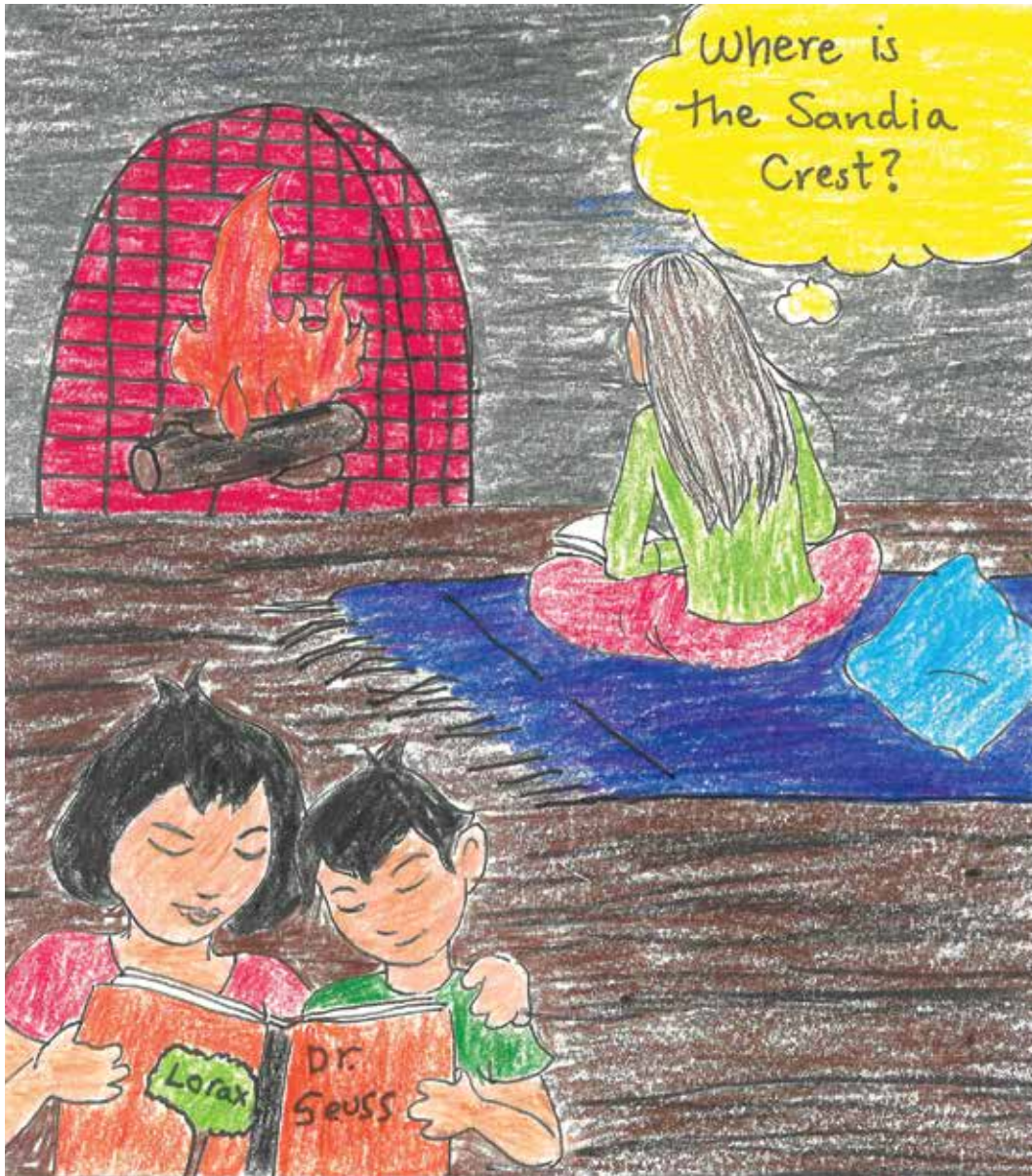
by Shepard Simons & Andrew Lescht, illustration help by Ronny Beeman



Far from their home in southern Azerbaijan, Leila and her older sister Zarah walk to find the blue library truck. “What kind of stories do you think the librarian has for us today?” asks Zarah. “I want to learn about the United States,” says Leila. They continue walking through the cold morning air in the Kelenterli refugee settlement in Azerbaijan, thinking about all the information they will find.



“Look there’s the truck and the librarian!” Exclaims Leila. They ran to the blue truck with excitement! The librarian is sitting with a group of little kids reading them a story. It turns out she was reading Leila’s favorite book, *The Lorax*, so they joined. After the librarian finishes reading the book she tells the children, “you may now borrow books for the next week.” When it is their turn to pick out books they are very excited! Leila asks, “please can I have a book about the United States?” The librarian says, “of course, I have the perfect book for you.” When it is Zarah’s turn, she asks for *The Lorax* because she wants to read it to Frank, her little brother. The librarian’s smile is so big it is contagious. She is happy because she inspired the kids.



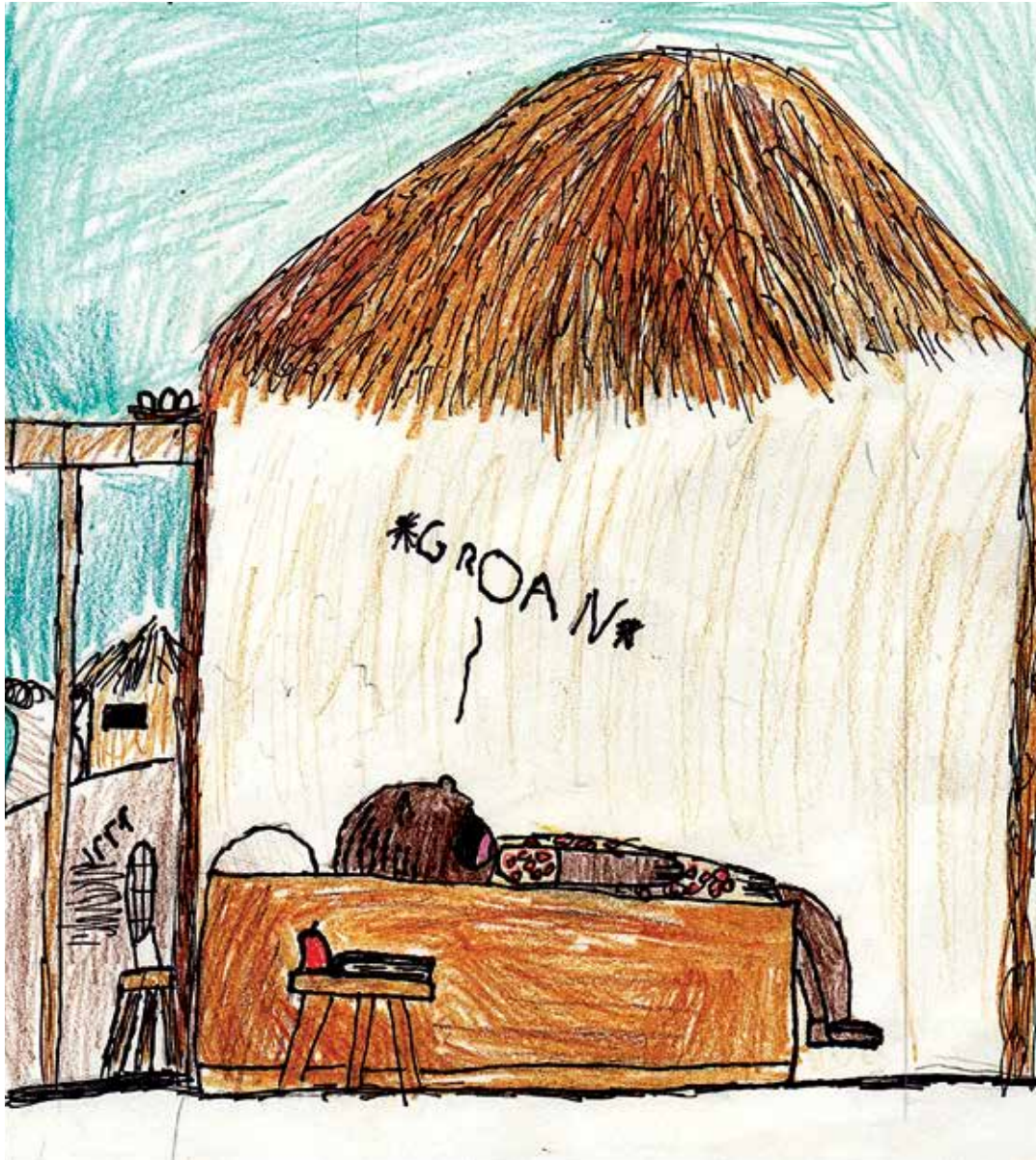
That evening at home, Leila sits near the warm fire on an ancient handmade carpet reading about the United States and thinks about places she wants to visit, like the Sandia Crest in New Mexico. Across the room Zarah and Frank are reading *The Lorax*.



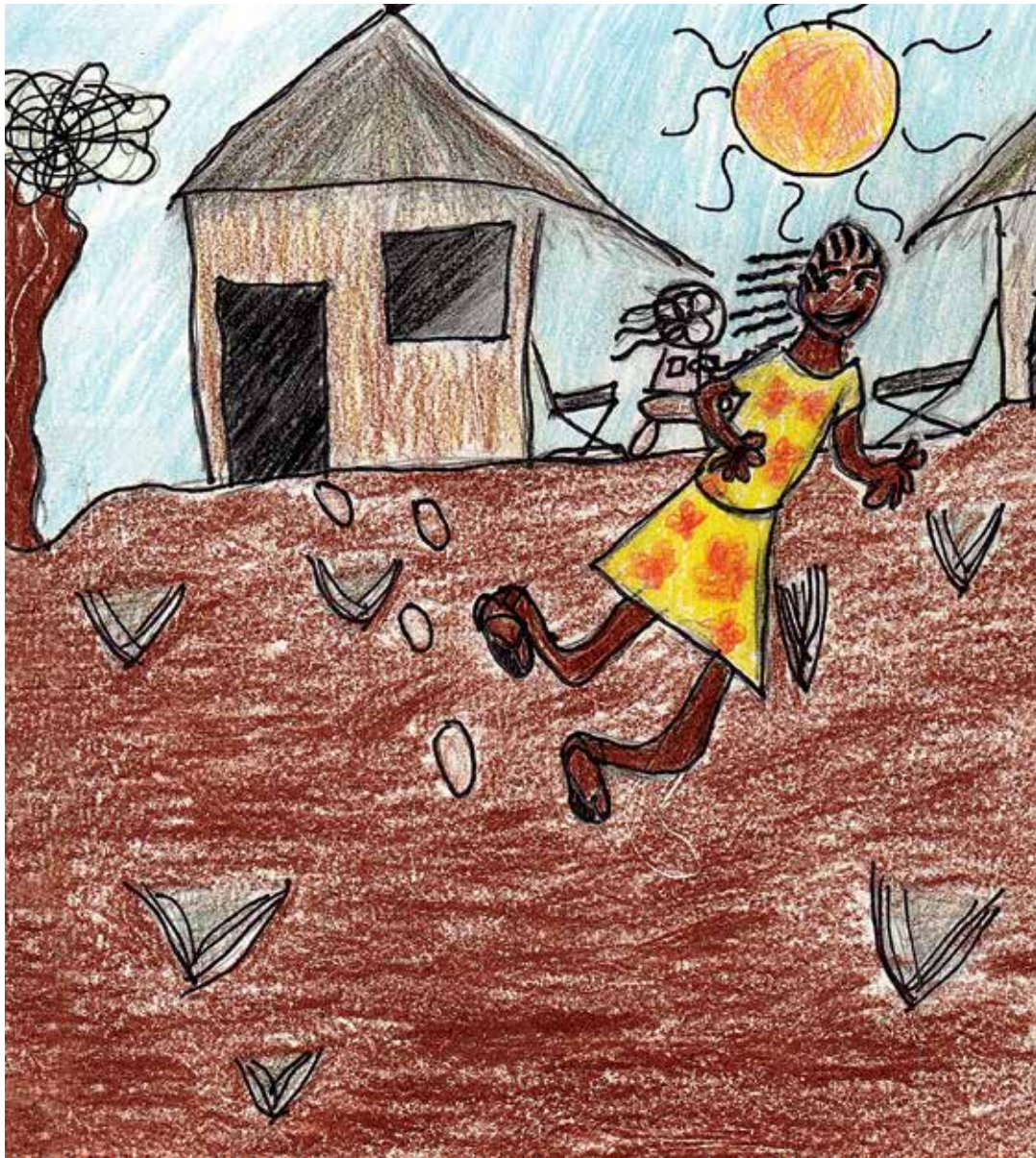
When it is time to rest Leila lays down in her bed, thinking about all she learned from the books she read. That night she dreams about the Blue Library Truck driving to bring books to children in the next refugee camp in Azerbaijan.

Thank You, Nkayi Donkey Cart

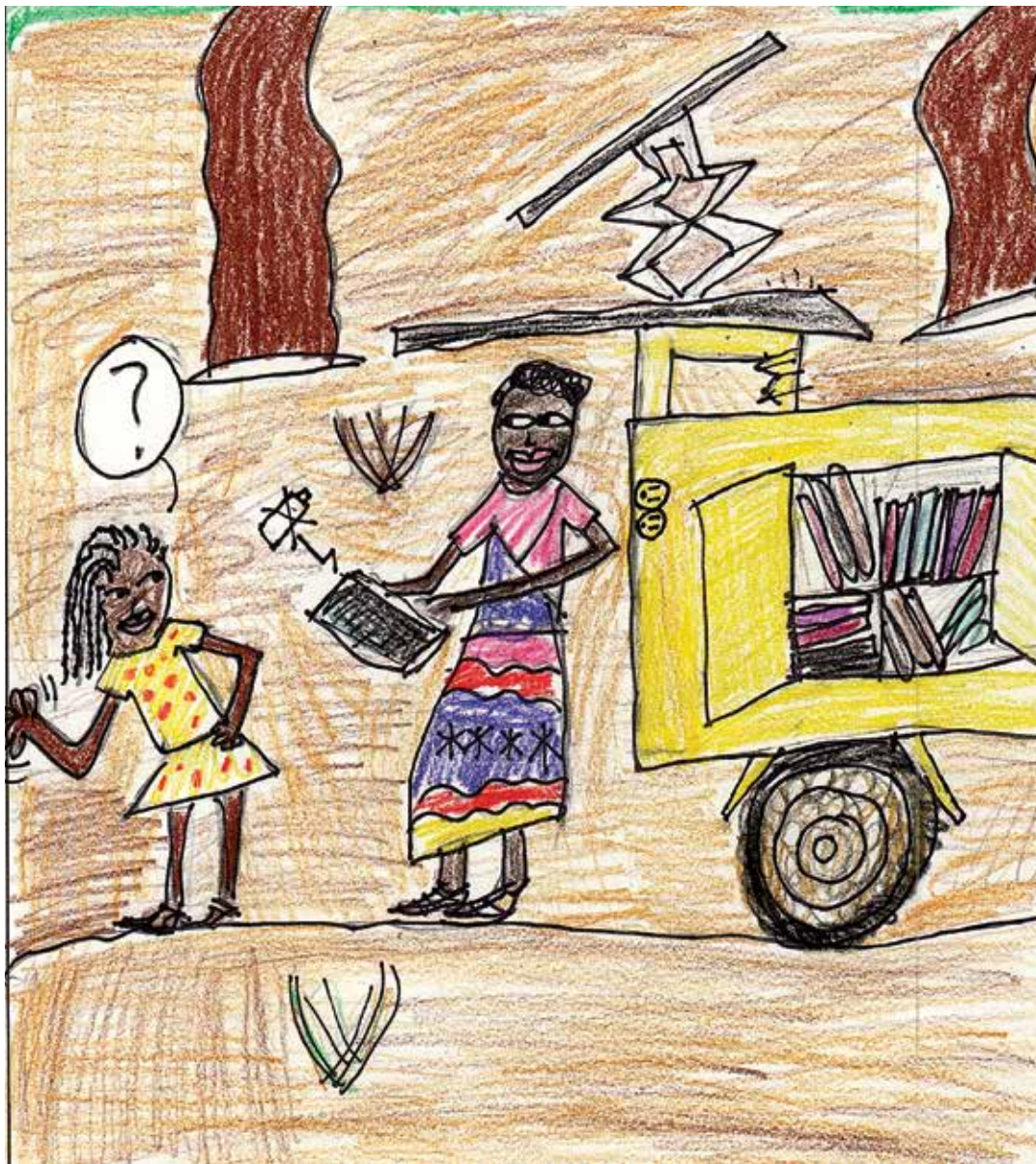
by Maci Achilles & Ollie Wood



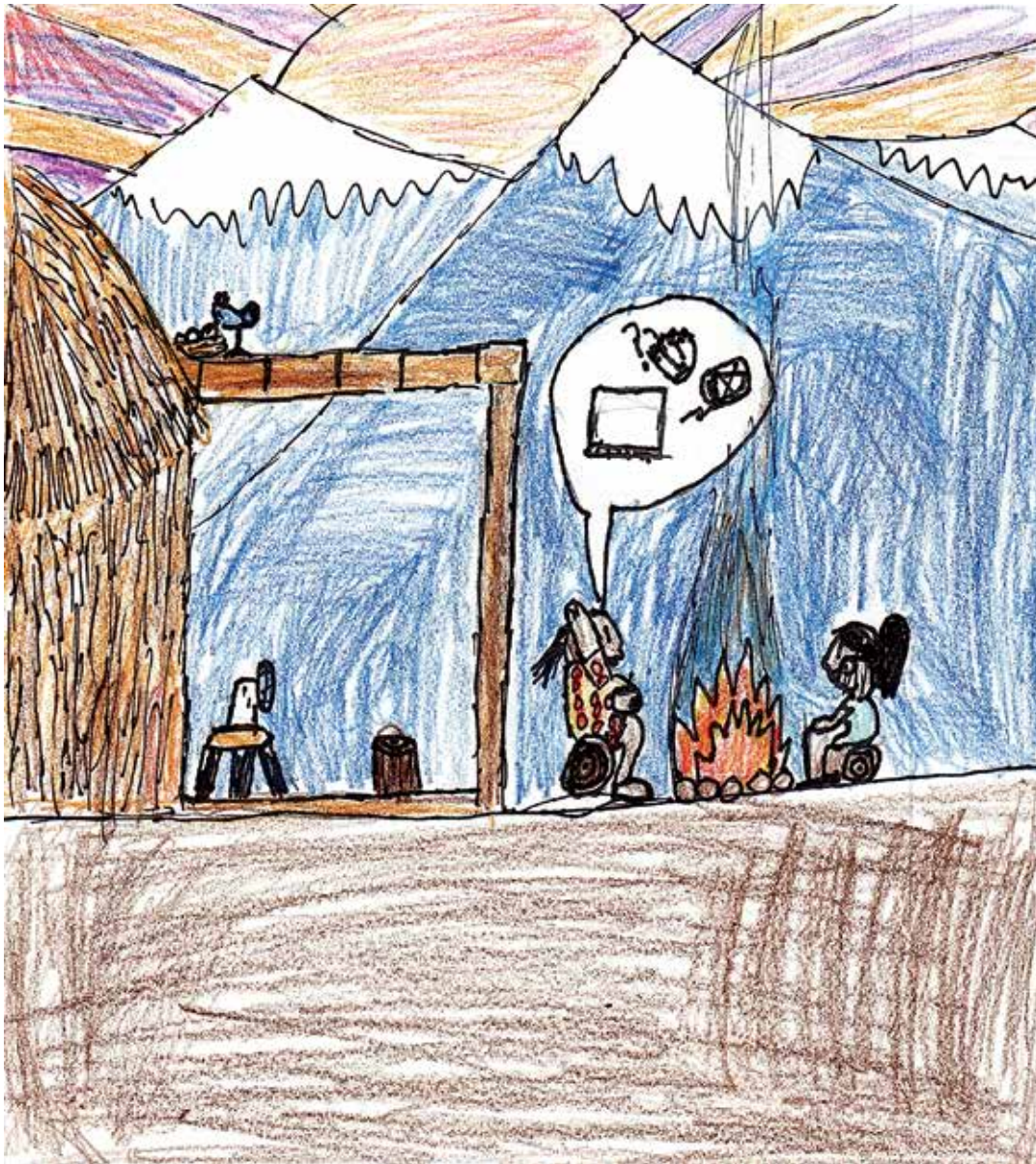
It was a hot day in rural Zimbabwe, and I was bored. I wanted to play a game of chess with Ma, or maybe read a book with Gramma. But, my almost-three-year-old brother Tendai, was using up all of their attention. The Donkey Cart hadn't been here in awhile. Therefore, I only had the three books I've read hundreds of times. Unfortunately, the only other friend I had besides myself was Tinashe. But, he moved to Bulawayo a year ago. As I stare up at the thatch ceiling Ma says, "Don't be so down Nyasha, the donkey cart will be here today!"



At this I perked up immediately. “Yes! Finally!” I said, as I dashed out of the house. Tendai squealed in excitement at these words and tried to follow me. But Gramma scooped him up saying, “Be calm little one, the books will be here soon.” She was right! As I dashed through the hard packed paths of dirt, I wondered what news Rachel the librarian would have from the other villages. When I arrived at the center of my village, I noticed something was off about the cart.



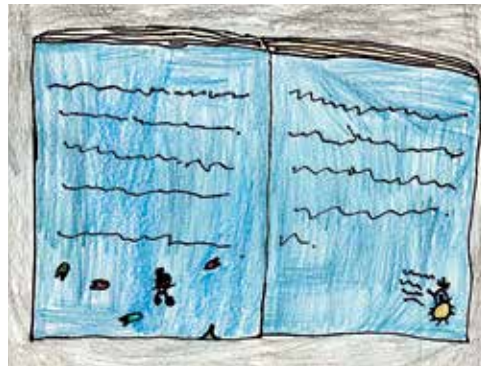
The donkeys had just come to a stop, and were in the process of being unharnessed. That was the same, then I looked at the cart. It had these strange black panels on the roof and Rachel was taking out a silvery flat thing. I had never seen anything like it before. "What is this?" I ask Rachel, pointing at whatever it was. She turns, smiling, "You haven't seen a computer before? Then you're in for a treat." She then started teaching me all about the computer and how I could use its electronic brain to learn wonderful things, and reserve books for whenever the cart visited my village again, plus much more! Although, I couldn't use it because it didn't have any electricity to run off of.



That night as we sat around the fire, the sun was tucking down behind the mountains and the world was cooling off. My family and I sat beside our house eating our Sadza. I told my family about the computer and what Rachel had taught me about it. Upon hearing the word dead (meaning having no power), Tendai immediately started whimpering and Ma had to put him to bed before the waterworks came along. I figured I'd better turn in too, as it was probably well past my bedtime. As I lie in bed reading, I thought about my day and how it was certainly NOT boring in the end.

The Amazing Books-By-Mail Program!

by Samantha Elmore & Odin Beeman



It was a frigid day on December 25th, 2005. It's Christmas time in Northwest Canada. Two kids, Aqaktuq and Amaruq were sitting under a Christmas tree with wrapping paper surrounding them. But one present is left underneath the leftover wrapping paper.

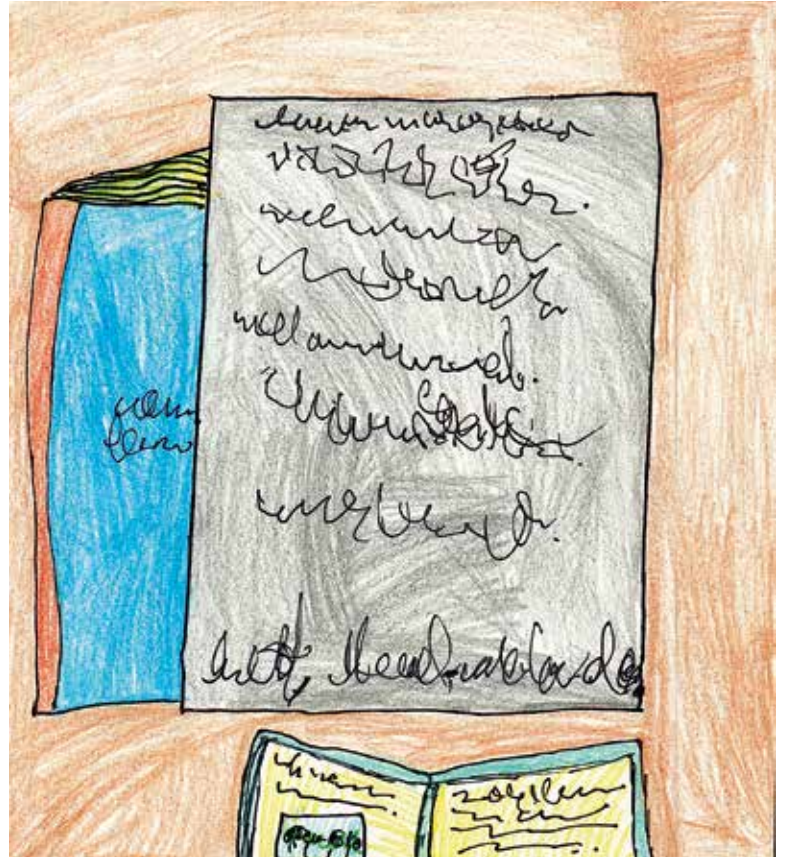
Amaruq, the older boy, gives the lonely present to his little sister Aqaktuq. She opens it to find a book about the ocean. Then, she reads it all day with her big brother Amaruq! She learns that there are fish called puffer fish. She makes a funny puffer fish face and swims around the room like she is in the ocean.



The next day Amaruq and his little sister Aqaktuq are having a snowball fight when the mailman, Cupun walks by. "Hey Cupun, how's it going?" says Amaruq. "Good, you?" says Cupun. "Hey, have you heard of the Books-by-Mail-Program?" "No!" they say, "but we do need more books. Thanks Cupun!"



They run as fast as they can home and get on the computer to research the Books-by-Mail-Program. "This looks cool!" says, Aqaktuq and they sign up! They order a book about space, a book about Japan, a book about lions and a book about the African savanna.

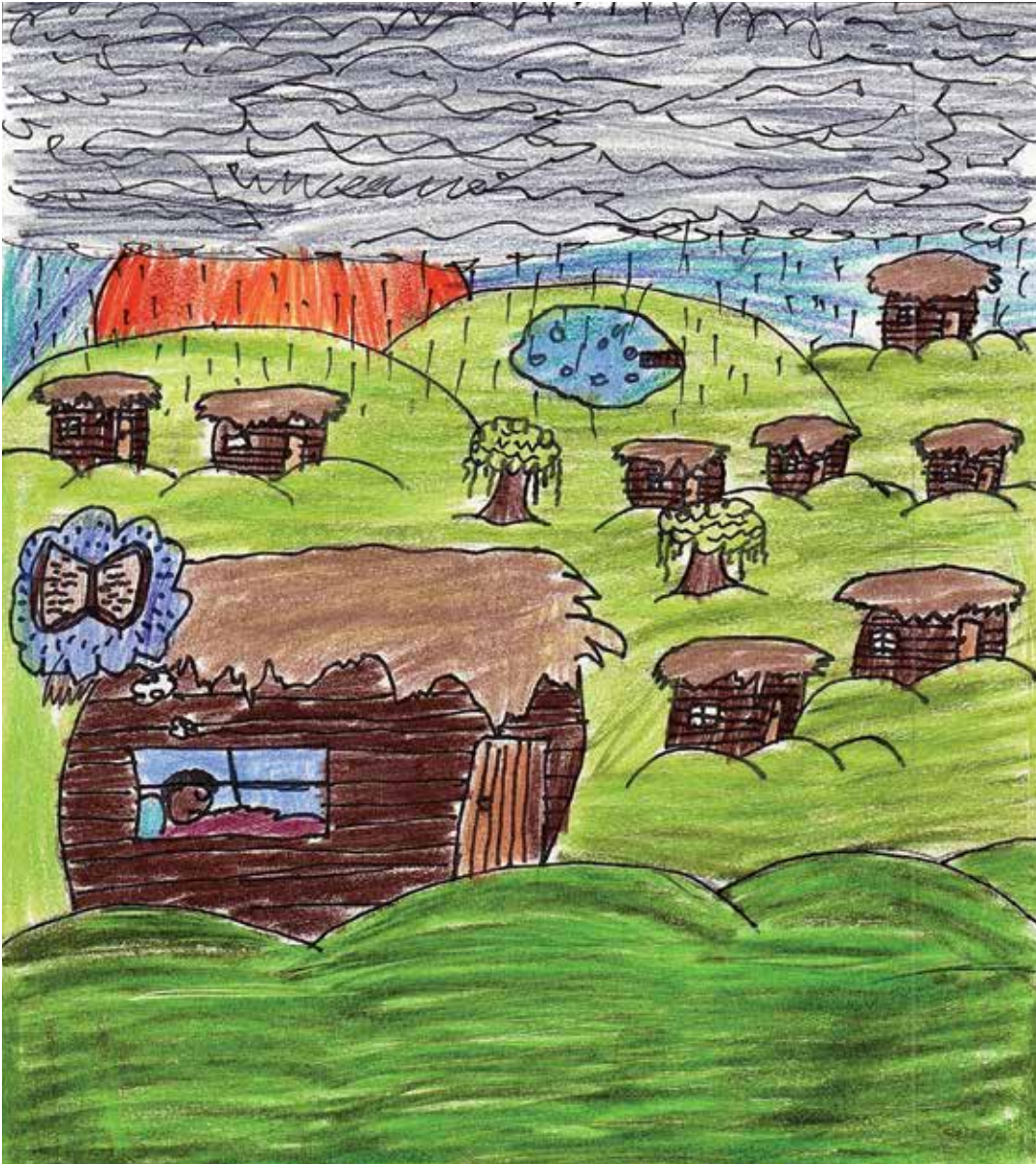


The next day they're sitting on the couch when Aqaktuq says, "Ugh, it's been a thousand years!" Suddenly, bang! bang! bang! There's a knock on the door. It's Cupun!

Amaruq rips open the packaging to find four books and a letter. He reads the letter aloud, "No matter the circumstances, you can still learn! Best wishes, the Books-by-Mail-Program."

The Jungle Librarians

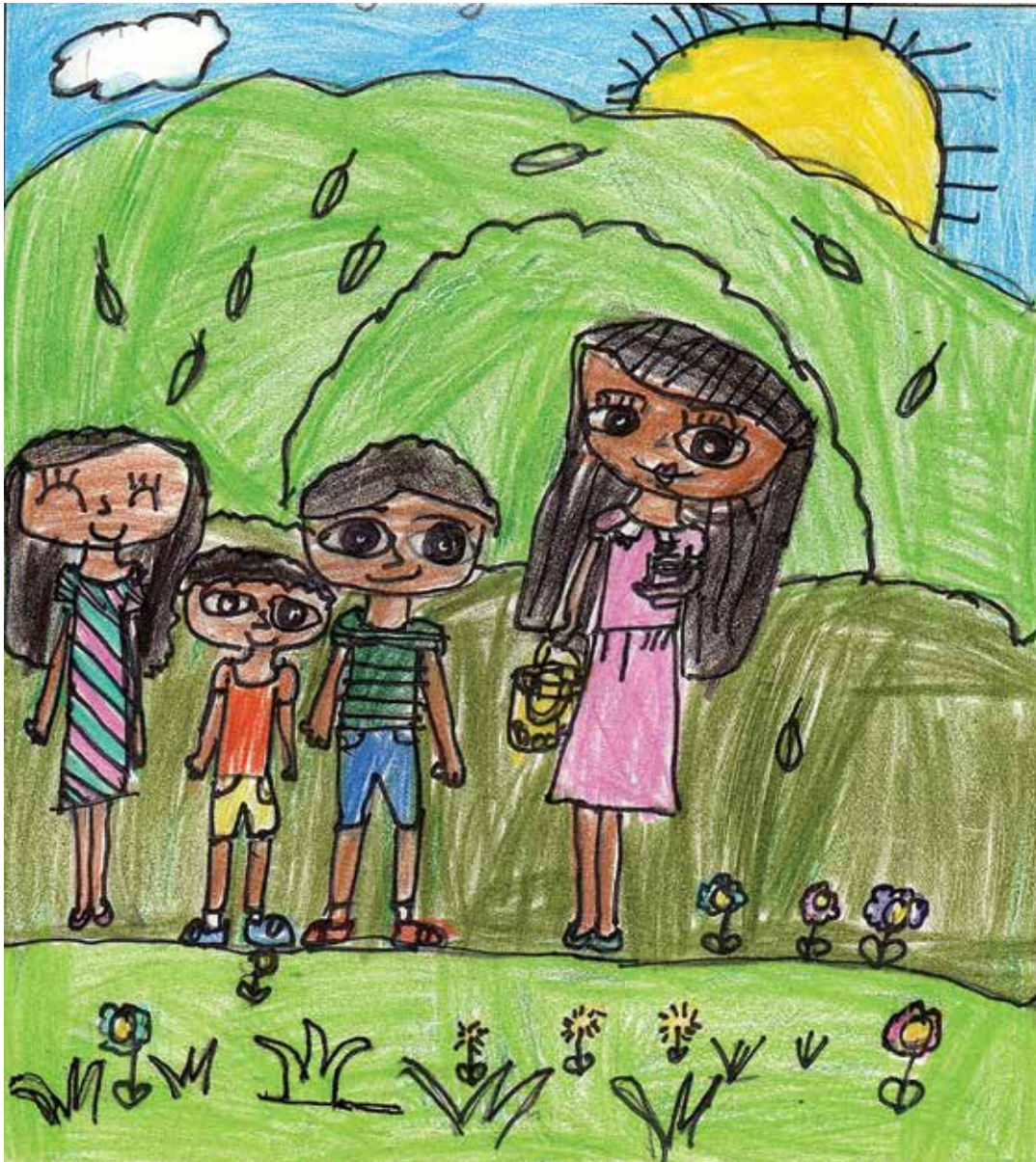
by Santi Garcia, Nicole Aviles, & Kate Poloner



In the deep green mossy forest of Papua New Guinea lies a Village named Amia. In the village there lies two sleeping boys. Nollen is the big brother, Nigel is the younger brother. Both of them are dreaming of books that they have never seen before, books that inspire, picture books, and books they can discover new things from.



Nollen and Nigel woke up on a nice rainy day. They started their daily chores of picking potatoes from the garden. They also fished for their family's dinner. After, Nollen read a book that he has read a thousand times. He longed for another book. But, his family could not afford one and there was no library in Amia. That night while looking at the stars Nollen and Nigel wished for new books.



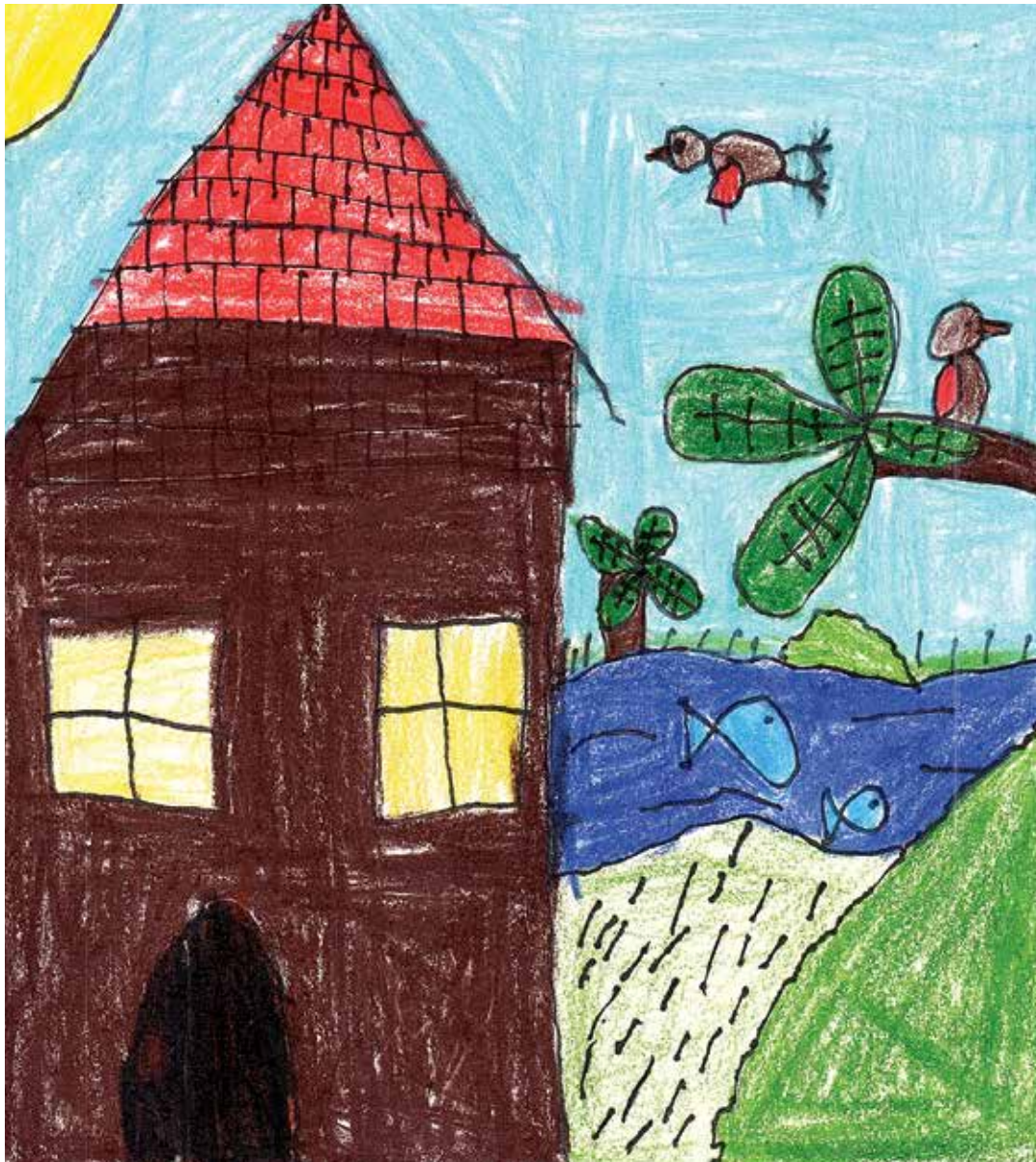
The next day Nollen and Nigel woke up and played with Kam. Kam was the family's dog. After breakfast Nollen and Nigel heard shouting outside. They went out to see what all the commotion was. Nollen, Nigel and the other kids in the village ran over to see who was there. "Hello, kids. I am Moia, a librarian. I am here to bring you books," she said. "Yay!" the kids screamed. "Hi. My name is Nigel." "Hi Nigel. This book should help you learn about geography," Moia said. Everyone got a book. When no one was looking, Nollen sneaked into his house to write a story of gratitude for Moia. He tried his best and put craftsmanship into it. Moia left at sundown "Bye," she called, "I will be back next week with new books." All the kids were happy with their books. Nollen was busy writing his story.



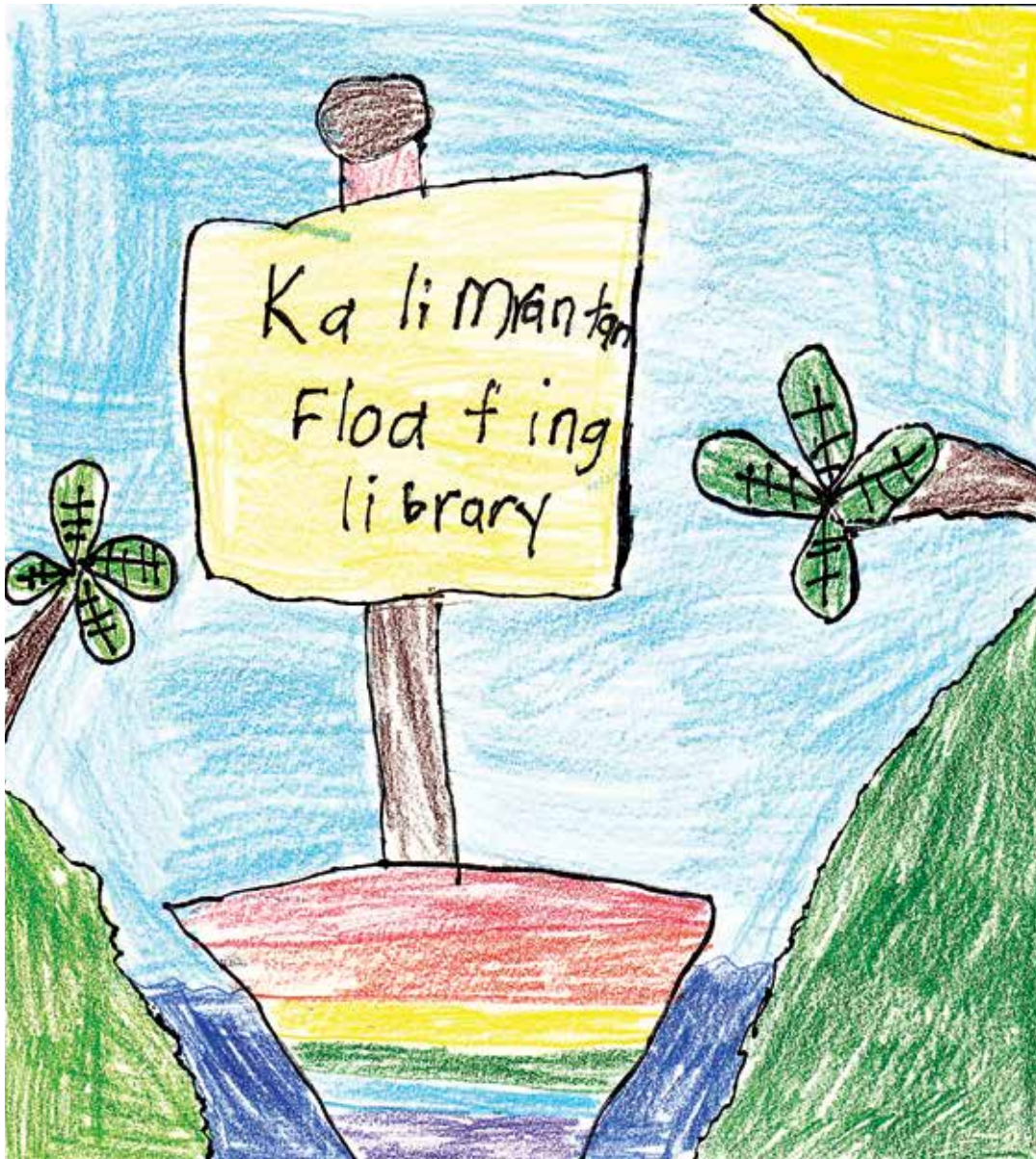
The next week Moia returned! Nollen gave the book he wrote to Moia. Moia was surprised, "I am very proud of you!" She sat down, the children gathered and she read the book to them. They all clapped for the beautiful story. Nollen asked, "Can we come with you to deliver the books to other villages?" Nollen and Nigel joined Moia, hopping over logs, wacking vines, jumping over puddles and dodging tree branches just to bring the power of reading to other children.

Waiting for the Boat Library

by Marie Weigle & Ry Jones



On a farm, near a river filled with many fish lives a girl named Nur. She dreams of having more books. But her teacher is long gone. Her brother and sister try to cheer Nur up.



One day the kids were playing forest tag and heard a noise coming from the river. They ran to it. It was a boat! On the side of the boat it said Kalimantan Floating Library. The librarian came off the boat with two boxes of books. "Hello children, take a few books," said the librarian. The children said, " Thank you librarian!" The librarian also read the children *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr. Seuss. The children were happy.



After, the librarian said, "I will be back again in a few weeks to bring new books." Nur, Intan and Kartika ran happily to their house. Their parents asked, "Why are you so happy?" Nur replied, "We got books from a boat library." Under a big lush tree Nur, Intan and Kartika spent the day reading their new books.

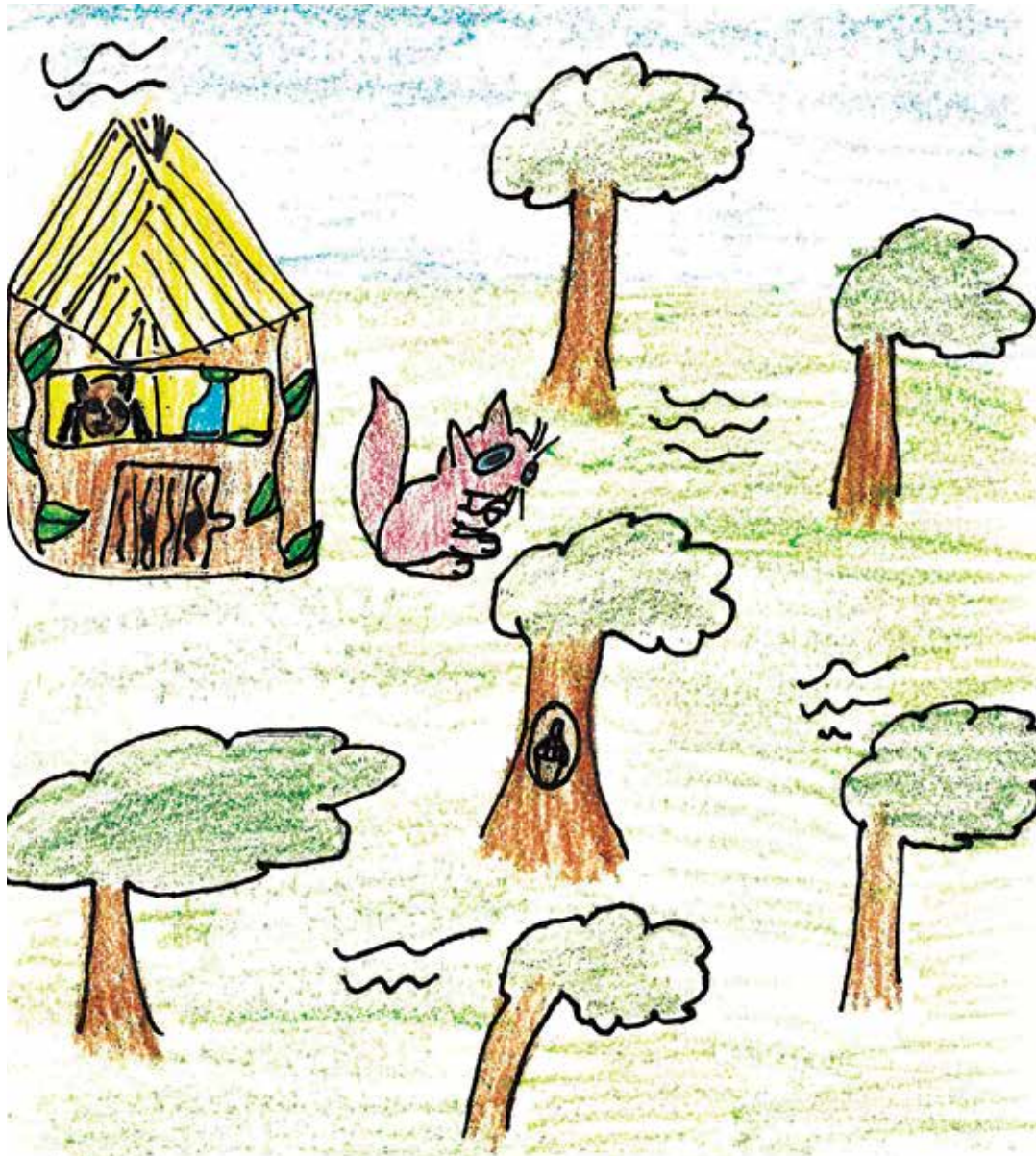


Nur thought about something - maybe she can make a book to give to the librarian. Days passed, she wrote her book. When the boat library came back Nur was done with her book. She gave it to the librarian. The librarian was excited and read it to all the children in the village. Before the librarian leaves, she packs the book in a special box to keep it safe.

On a farm, near a river lives a girl who dreams of when the Kalimantan floating library will return.

Waiting for the Camels

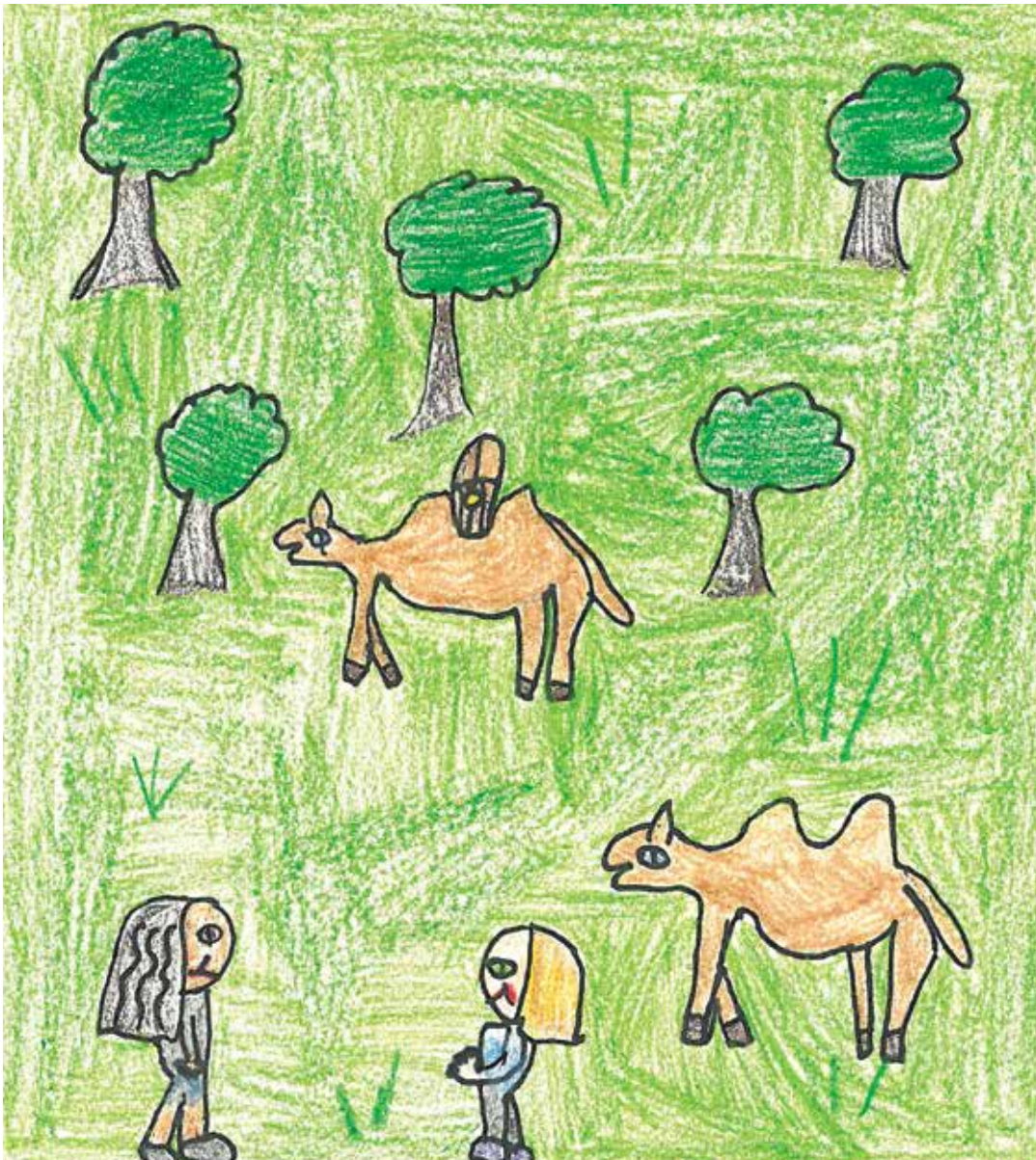
by Sage Urban, Payton Mahone, & Anne Gutierrez Bartolome



Behind a grove of Acacia trees is a small cottage where a nine year old girl lives with her family. She is staring out of a window at the dry fruit pods of the Acacia trees, daydreaming about having a library where she can learn and have fun.



The next morning Chriki wakes up at dawn and heads outside to practice soccer. Suddenly she sees two camels carrying big bulky things. What are the camels carrying? She asks herself. As the camels get closer, she sees that one of them is carrying big boxes of books and a tent. On the other camel is a short woman with a merry expression.



When the camels arrived, the little woman hopped off and said, "I am Abbo, a librarian." Chriki realized her dream had come true. In front of her was a portable library where she could learn and have fun. She introduced herself. "I am Chriki. Daughter of Goko, older sister to Bakari and Gethera." The woman smiled kindly. "Why are you here?" Chriki asked Abbo. "I am here to share the power of reading with people who don't have books," responded Abbo quietly. "Really?" Chriki almost whispered. "Yes." Abbo said in her cool voice. Chriki helped the librarian set up her tent and set out her books under the cool shade of the Acacia trees.



Chriki ran into her house and woke up Bakari and Gethera. "Wake up you sleepy heads and come outside!" she yelled. Once they were outside Chriki explained everything to them. "Wow!" they breathed when she was done. They all sat down in the tent under the Acacia trees and picked out a book called *The Way the Elephants Live*. "Okay," said Abbo. "We will read this together," and she sat down under the Acacia trees with them. Then Abbo began to read and the children got lost in a land of stories.

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The Purple Library



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